(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Vacant posts of GMs in the Railways

2193. SHRIMATI GURCHARAN KAUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the Railway Zones and the production units where posts of General Manager are lying vacant, from which dates they are lying vacant and the reasons therefor;

(b) by when these posts are likely to be filled up;

(c) whether some dispute is going on between the Department of Personnel, Ministry of Home Affairs and the Railways in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) At present the posts of General Managers of Central Railways Northeast Frontier Railway (Construction) and CLW/Chittaranjan are lying vacant since 16.01.2002, 01.03.2002 and 01.03.2002 respectively consequent upon promotion/superannuation of incumbents. Work of these posts is however, being looked after by General Manager, Western Railway, General Manager, NF Railway and General Manager, Eastern Railway, respectively. One post of General Manager is required to be kept vacant as per directions of Hon'ble Central Administrative Tribunal, Kolkata Bench.

(b) Action in regard to posting of the General Managers on these Railway Zones/Units except one post, have been initiated and are likely to be filled up shorty.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Computerised rail reservation at Onjha Nagar

† 2194. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation for providing computerised rail reservation facility at Onjha Nagar railway station in Mehsana

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

district of Gujarat and for increasing the reservation quota in various trains; and

(b) if so, what directions Government propose to give in respect thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir. This Ministry has received a representation from Shri Narainbhai Patel, Minister of State for Transport, Government of Gujarat.

(b) Computerised reservation facilities are capital intensive and also involve significant recurring costs. These facilities are, therefore, provided at railway stations registering a large number of reservation related transactions. The reservation workload available at Onjha Station is not high enough to qualify for provision of a computerised reservation centre even under the recently liberalized policy of this Ministry.

The existing quota provided at Onjha Nagar Station is not being fully utilized. Therefore, it is considered sufficient to meet the demand of the passengers.

Exchange of railways expertise for crude oil with Iraq

2195. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to trade building expertise of the Railways with Iraq in exchange for crude oil;

(b) if so, the number of rail projects to be taken up in that country;

(c) whether in view of UN sanctions against Iraq, waiver has been obtained from UN; and

(d) the other details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed with Government of Iraq covering various aspects of cooperation in Railway Sectors such as New Railway projects. Sky Bus Metro, Sleeper Factory, Exchange of expertise & training. Supply of services, material & equipments etc. However, there is no specific proposal to trade building expertise with Iraq in exchange of crude oil.